



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1800 Washington Boulevard • Baltimore MD 21230

410-537-3000 • 1-800-633-6101

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor

Shari T. Wilson
Secretary

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.
Deputy Secretary

March 30, 2010

The Honorable Dereck E. Davis, Chairperson
Members of the House Economic Matters Committee
House Economic Matters Committee
Room 231, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information, House Bill 1527: Environment- Heating Oil- Sulfur Content

Dear Delegate Davis and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of the Environment supports the concept of HB 1527. Currently, the sulfur levels in home heating oil are four to six times as high as the 500 ppm level HB 1527 seeks to implement. These high sulfur levels contribute significantly to fine particle pollution, lower visibility, and increase CO₂ in the atmosphere. Lower levels of sulfur in heating oil will help the State meet Clean Air Act requirements and improve air quality for Maryland citizens. Although fuel prices may rise slightly, the lower sulfur content will sustain higher efficiency levels in furnaces longer reducing maintenance costs and prolonging the life of home heating equipment.

The Department is moving ahead with a regulation containing requirements identical to the proposed legislation, as are a number of other states in the east. As a result, this legislation would be duplicative of action the Department is undertaking. The Department's plan for low sulfur heating oil requirements would be in place in 2011 and implemented in 2014.

Thank you for your consideration of this information as you review HB 1527. Please contact me at 410-260-6301 or lnissley@mde.state.md.us if you would like to discuss any of these issues further.

Sincerely,

Lisa Nissley

Cc: George (Tad) S. Aburn, Jr., Director, Air and Radiation Management Administration
Heather Barthel, Director, Legislation and Policy

